

HOUSE BUDGET BILL REDUCES CHILD SUPPORT COLLECTIONS BY \$24.1 BILLION

Key Points:

- **America can do better than paying for additional tax cuts for millionaires by reducing child support payments upon which struggling single mothers depend.**
- **The Majority's bill slashes federal administrative funding for child support enforcement by \$4.9 billion over five years – which CBO estimates will reduce child support collections by \$24.1 billion over the next ten years.**
- **The bill will cut child support payments to single mothers who are struggling to provide for their children – this is a \$24.1 billion tax on America's single-parent families.**
- **By reducing this nation's commitment to collecting legally-owed child support, the bill condemns more children to poverty and lets deadbeat dads off the hook.**

The Majority's budget package will result in reducing child support collections by \$24.1 billion. The bill cuts federal administrative funding for child support enforcement by \$4.9 billion over five years. Much of the savings results from reducing the federal matching rate to states from 66 percent to 50 percent of program costs. CBO projects that these provisions will result in reducing child support collections by \$24.1 billion over the next 10 years.

Cutting child support leaves millions of children worse off. More than 16 million families with children rely on the child support program. Under the bill, these families with children will be receiving \$24.1 billion less in child support payments than they would under current law – condemning more children to poverty.

Cutting child support also undermines family values. Research shows that the child support enforcement program increases fathers' involvement with their children. Cuts to the federal commitment to child support will reduce families' ability to establish their right to child support and to ensure that child support owed actually gets paid. Letting child support go unpaid not only will reduce the resources available to single parents and their children, but also will harm efforts to strengthen families by keeping both parents financially and emotionally involved in their children's lives.

Child support enforcement has been a highly effective program and should not be cut. Experience with child support enforcement over the last several years has shown it is a highly effective program. Child support enforcement:

- Reinforces the responsibility of non-custodial parents to provide financial and medical support for their children;
- Reduces economic hardship among children and promotes children's achievement in school;
- Helps single parents – overwhelmingly mothers – make ends meet and become self-sufficient; and
- Collected \$22 billion last year at a total cost of about \$5 billion to the federal and state governments combined: that's \$4.38 in private child support collected for every public dollar spent.